THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The Commissioner of Labour received copy of a letter addresed by the Union to the management.

" (b) The workers' Union is being advised that the workers may file claim petitions under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947."

Hours of duty for male and female nursing orderlies in Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.

* 1093 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the male and female nursing orderlies in the Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, have to do duty for 22 hours at a stretch; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) Does not arise."

Amount allotted to the Local Library Authority, Tanjore district, for 1952–53.

* 1094 Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the amount allotted to the Local Library Authority, Tanjore district, for the year 1952–53; and

(b) the amount spent by them?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the Government contribution sanctioned under section 13 (3) of the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948, to the Local Library Authority, Tanjore district, for the year, 1952–53. The amount so sanctioned for that year is Rs. 36,608–14–9.

" (b) The expenditure incurred by the Authority during 1952–53 is Rs. 11,059."

Satyagraha staged by the members of the Scheduled Castes Federation in North Arcot and Salem districts on 17th August 1953.

* 1095 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether the members of the Scheduled Castes Federation staged any satyagraha (picketing) in front of the schools run by the Director of Harijan Welfare in the districts of North Arcot and Salem on Monday, the 17th August 1953;

(b) how many members were picketing;

(c) how many schools were picketed and whether boys and girls attended these schools on the morning of the 17th August 1953;

(d) whether the district organization of the Scheduled Castes Federation informed the school authorities, the Director of Harijan Welfare, the Collectors of North Arcot and Salem, the Police and the Ministers about the picketing of schools on the day and expressed their condemnation of the new scheme of elementary education; and

(e) how many persons were arrested on the day while they were picketing in front of the schools?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) Some of the schools were picketed in North Arcot district by members of the Scheduled Castes Federation on 17th August 1953. No Harijan Welfare school was picketed in Salem district by the members of the Federation on 17th August 1953.

" (b) Five to ten members were picketing in front of each of the schools picketed.

" (c) 48 schools. There was normal attendance in a few of the schools picketed, while in some the children did not attend for the whole day or part of the day in the morning.

" (d) Notice of the proposed picketing was received from the District Organization by the Collector, the District Welfare Officer and the Headmasters of the Harijan Welfare schools concerned.

" (e) Two."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know the reason why the members of the Federation picketed these institutions? " 10-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Perhaps they were picketing against the modified scheme of elementary education."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it not a fact that the grievances of the members of the Federation had nothing to do with the modified scheme of elementary education but were with regard to lack of adequate facilities regarding food, clothing and scholarships? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I will have to ascertain the causes from the Secretary of the Federation who is seated by the side of the hon. Member himself."

Representation re. punam cultivation in Malabar.

* 1096 *Q*.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" We have finished 161 questions. There is a short-notice question given notice of by Mr. T. C. Narayanan Nambiar. It may be answered."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" May I read the question Sir? It has been put by Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar—

(a) whether the Government have received recently any representation from the public and M.L.As. regarding poonam cultivation in Malabar; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?